



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ROCK SPRINGS DEPUTY CONVICTED OF CIVIL RIGHTS VIOLATION

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that 25-year-old Guillermo Falcon Hernandez was convicted of deprivation of civil rights under color of law by a federal jury in Del Rio, Texas, for shooting into a fleeing vehicle and injuring a passenger. He was acquitted of a second count of the same offense in relation to a second passenger in the same vehicle. He is scheduled to be sentenced on March 12, 2007, in Del Rio, where he faces up to 10 years in federal prison. He was taken into custody after today's verdict.

On April 14, 2005, in Rock Springs, Texas, at approximately 11:50 p.m. Hernandez made a traffic stop of a vehicle that he subsequently determined was occupied by nine people at least seven of whom were illegal aliens being transported into the United States from Mexico. When the driver of the car suddenly began to drive away, Hernandez fired 6 rounds into the vehicle in an effort to stop the vehicle knowing it was occupied with the nine individuals. The testimony at trial showed that at least one of those rounds injured a young woman in the vehicle.

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Texas Rangers. Assistant U.S. Attorney's Bill Baumann and David Counts prosecuted this case on behalf of the government.

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